

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A voice output unit which converts a text-based  
2 document into a voice and outputs the voice,  
3 comprising,  
4 a voice signal synthesizer for generating a voice  
5 signal from said text-based document,  
6 an output means which outputs as a voice said  
7 voice signal generated in said voice signal  
8 synthesizer,  
9 a grasping means which grasps contents or a length  
10 of said text-based document, and  
11 a synthesizing controller for allowing said voice  
12 signal synthesizer to generate said voice signal in  
13 which a tone quality including at least intonation is  
14 changed, according to the contents or the length of  
15 said text-based document grasped in said grasping  
16 means, when said voice signal synthesizer generates  
17 said voice signal from said text-based document.
- 1 2. A navigation system which converts a corresponding  
2 text-based document into a voice according to a  
3 situation what kind of voice is to be outputted, and  
4 outputs the voice, comprising,  
5 a voice signal synthesizer for generating a voice

6 signal from said text-based document,  
7 an output means which outputs as a voice said  
8 voice signal generated by said voice signal  
9 synthesizer,  
10 a grasping means which grasps said situation, and  
11 a synthesizing controller for allowing said voice  
12 signal synthesizer to generate said voice signal in  
13 which a tone quality including at least one of  
14 intonation, volume, speed and key is changed,  
15 according to said situation grasped in said grasping  
16 means, when said voice signal synthesizer generates  
17 said voice signal from said text-based document.

1 3. A navigation system according to claim 2, wherein,  
2 said grasping means grasps at least a situation  
3 in which road guidance is to be outputted, and a  
4 situation in which an operation guidance of the system  
5 is to be outputted.

1 4. A navigation system according to claim 3, further  
2 comprising a VICS (Vehicle Information and  
3 Communication System) information receiver for  
4 receiving VICS information, wherein,  
5 said grasping means further grasps a situation  
6 in which said VICS information is to be outputted.

1 5. A navigation system according to claim 3, further  
2 comprising a network information receiver for  
3 receiving network information via the Internet,  
4 wherein,

5       said grasping means further grasps a situation  
6 in which said network information is to be outputted.

1 6. A navigation system according to claim 4, further  
2 comprising a network information receiver for  
3 receiving network information via the Internet,  
4 wherein,

5       said grasping means further grasps a situation  
6 in which said network information is to be outputted.